

Theme: What a friend we have in Jesus! We are made for relationships, and friendships are an important part of life. We cannot be surrounded by friends all the time, however, and life can feel lonely at times. But Jesus is a friend who is always by our side, and who showed us the greatest love – by laying down His life for us.

Getting Started:

1. Confirmation Day at Our Savior! What a blessing to have 16 young people confessing their faith in Christ and pledging to walk with Jesus for a lifetime. Share with the group what you remember from your confirmation day, or what your early walk with Christ was like.

In the Word: Read John 15:9-17

- 2. What do you think Jesus means when He says "remain in my love"? (vs 9)
- 3. Jesus speaks of making His joy in us 'complete.' How is the joy of the Lord made complete in us?
- 4. Jesus describes a love that is self-giving, self-sacrificing, and that willingly lays down its life for another. Can you think of examples (other than Jesus) of a person who willingly gave their life so that another person might live? See if each person in your group can come up with an example, or how many your whole group can come up with.
- 5. How is Jesus our "friend"? (vs 14)
- 6. How is Jesus different from any earthly "friend"?

- 7. Look closely at verse 16. Why is it so significant that Jesus says "you did not choose me..."?
- 8. What are the fruits that Jesus wants us to bear? (pop quiz on last week's Scripture & Sermon!)
- 9. Jesus repeats over and over again His command to love one another, and how the love of the Father flows to the Son, and then to us, and then to others. Read **1** Corinthians **13** to your group aloud, and discuss how this passage perfectly describes the love that Jesus has for us.
- 10. How do we then show this love to one another?

Prayer: Thank Jesus for being our truest Friend, and ask for His love to sustain us whenever we feel lost or lonely. Pray for our Confirmands and ask that He would walk with them through high school and beyond for a lifetime of faithfulness until we all receive the crown of life.

Next Week: Ascension Sunday is when we commemorate Jesus rising from the dead, and His gracious presence with all Christians everywhere.